



# PUBLIC WORKSHOP NOTICE

February 26, 2015

BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER  
SUBJECT: **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 6,  
RULE 3: WOOD-BURNING DEVICES**

The San Francisco Bay Area is home to almost seven million residents and an estimated 1.4 million fireplaces and wood stoves. Wood smoke from these devices is the #1 source of wintertime air pollution.

In 2008, the Air District adopted Regulation 6, Rule 3 to protect Bay Area residents from the harmful health impacts of wood smoke.

While the Regulation has been effective in reducing fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) since its adoption, wood smoke remains a significant health problem in the Bay Area. In an effort to protect public health and achieve a healthy air quality standard, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is amending Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood Burning Devices.

The Air District will conduct a series of nine public workshops to review and discuss the proposed amendments and is seeking your comments and input to further reduce the harmful emissions that come from wood smoke. Please refer to the last page of this notice for the date, time and location of the workshop in your county.

The Air District is considering the following proposed changes to Regulation 6, Rule 3:

**Mandatory Burn Ban** - A mandatory burn ban is in effect when a Winter Spare the Air Alert is called. Winter Spare the Air Alerts are called when PM 2.5 levels are forecast to exceed federal health standards. To prevent regional wood smoke build-up, the Air District proposes to declare a mandatory burn ban when PM 2.5 is anticipated to exceed an unhealthy level within the next 3 days.

**Sole Source of Heat Exemption** - Wood burning is prohibited when a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect unless a residential space qualifies for an exemption from the rule. The Air District plans to clarify the conditions for "only source of heat" exemption, specify the types of wood burning devices that qualify for exemption, address permanently installed heating devices that are non-functional and allow a temporary repair exemption, and clarify the exemption for loss of natural gas or electric power. Properties that claim exemptions are subject to Air District verification.

**Visible Emissions Limitation** - The Air District plans to amend the Visible Emissions Limitation to be consistent with Regulation 6, Rule 1, General Requirements for sources of particulate matter. Following a 20 minute start-up allowance for new fires, visible emissions of greater than 20% opacity and aggregate to 3 minutes in any hour is considered an exceedance of the standard.

**Manufacturing and Sales of New Wood Heaters** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a new national PM emission standard for the manufacturing and sales of new wood heaters on February 3, 2015 (New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) Subpart AAA). New wood heaters are required to have a permanent label indicating they are EPA certified to meet these new emission limits. The Air District will adopt the following new EPA emission ratings and compliance dates:

- Wood stove retailers can no longer sell EPA certified devices rated 4.6 g/hr-7.5 g/hr after December 31, 2015.
- Effective 60 days after EPA's final rule is published in the Federal Register, all new wood heaters must meet an emissions rating of 4.5 g/hr (tested using crib or cordwood test methods). Cordwood test methods must be approved by EPA.
- Effective 5 years after EPA's final rule is published in the Federal Register, all new wood heaters must meet:
  - Emissions rating of 2.0 g/hr if using crib test method.
  - Emissions rating of 2.5 g/hr if using cordwood test method. Cordwood test methods must be approved by EPA.

**Requirements for Real Estate Properties** - The Air District promotes the replacement of old wood burning devices with cleaner and more efficient devices to reduce wood smoke. The Air District plans to require residential and commercial properties with uncertified wood-burning devices to replace or install devices that meet or exceed NSPS Subpart AAA standard. The Air District is considering the following requirements:

- *Sale and Transfer of Real Property*- Upon sale or transfer of residential or commercial property, all uncertified wood burning devices must be replaced with gas-fueled, electric or EPA certified heating devices that meet or exceeds NSPS Subpart AAA.
- *Fireplace or Chimney Remodels*- Upon remodeling a fireplace or chimney, an uncertified wood burning device must be replaced with a gas-fueled, electric, or EPA certified heating device that meet or exceeds NSPS Subpart AAA.
- *Commercial and Residential Rental Property*- All commercial and residential rental properties must have an alternate form of heat that does not burn solid fuel and all wood burning devices must be EPA certified or be replaced with gas-fueled or electric devices.
- *New Building Constructions*- New building constructions shall install only gas-fueled or electric heating devices.

**Registration Program** - The Air District is considering establishing a registration program that would require all claimants of "only source of heat" exemption to register their EPA certified wood-burning devices. The proposed registration program would be free for the first year but all devices that are registered thereafter may incur a fee to register.

## Workshop Dates, Times and Locations

<p><b>SANTA CLARA COUNTY</b> <b>March 25, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>City of Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center Hiram Room</p> <p>17000 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037</p>	<p><b>SAN MATEO COUNTY</b> <b>April 6, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>Redwood City Public Library Downtown Branch 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room</p> <p>1044 Middlefield Road Redwood City, CA 94063</p>	<p><b>NAPA COUNTY</b> <b>April 7, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>Napa County Main Library Community Meeting Room</p> <p>580 Coombs Street Napa, CA 94559</p>
<p><b>ALAMEDA COUNTY</b> <b>April 9, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>Livermore City Hall City Council Chambers</p> <p>1052 South Livermore Avenue Livermore, CA 94550</p>	<p><b>MARIN COUNTY</b> <b>April 13, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>San Rafael City Hall City Council Chambers</p> <p>1400 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue San Rafael, CA 94901</p>	<p><b>SONOMA COUNTY</b> <b>April 16, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>Santa Rosa City Hall City Council Chambers</p> <p>100 Santa Rosa Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95404</p>
<p><b>CONTRA COSTA COUNTY</b> <b>April 20, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>Walnut Creek City Hall City Council Chambers</p> <p>1666 North Main Street Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p>	<p><b>SOLANO COUNTY</b> <b>April 22, 6-8 PM</b></p> <p>City of Suisun City Council Chambers</p> <p>701 Civic Center Blvd. Suisun City, CA 94585</p>	<p><b>SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY*</b> <b>April 24, 10 AM - 12PM</b></p> <p>Bay Area Air Quality Management District Offices 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom</p> <p>939 Ellis Street San Francisco, CA 94109</p> <p>*Meeting will be webcast</p>

For questions or comments on proposed amendments to Regulation 6, Rule 3, please contact the Air District's Wood Smoke Hotline at (415) 749-4989, or via e-mail at [public@baaqmd.gov](mailto:public@baaqmd.gov).

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the public meetings. Please see the following web sites for help in locating available public transportation:

[www.transit.511.org](http://www.transit.511.org), [www.bayareatransit.net](http://www.bayareatransit.net), [www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local\\_gov/transit.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local_gov/transit.html)